LEFT: Giles Scott wins his fourth Finn Gold Cup
Rafa Trujillo wins record breaking Finn World Masters
Rio Olympic Games preview
British U23 initiative
Sailing World Cup and National roundups
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Dear Finn Sailors, 
Dear Friends of the International Finn Community

We are not even halfway through the year and already it has been another vintage season for Finn sailing, both on and off the water, and we still have the main event to come.

This year we celebrated our 60th Finn Gold Cup, an event with a remarkable history and prestige around the world. That was followed by the largest Finn event of all time at the Finn World Masters on Lake Garda, with 355 Finn sailors enjoying a week of great racing and friendship.

When 355 sailors from all over the world turn up for one event then who needs convincing of the popularity of Finn sailing at the moment?

And as I write this, around 40 of the world’s best young sailors are preparing for our first U23 World Championship, the new designation for the Finn Silver Cup.

As the fleet prepares for the Rio Olympics it is worth noting that every major regatta this year has produced a different winner, but congratulations to Giles Scott on his fourth Finn Gold Cup title and to Rafa Trujillo on his first Finn World Masters title.

The Finn class continues to produce some really great champions and Giles has once again proved that he will be the one to beat in Rio.

Off the water the work never ceases to position the Finn as a relevant and exciting class for all ages and nationalities. This year we are excited to see several new nations competing at the Olympics, as well as three sailors who have directly benefitted from Finn class development funding through our FIDeS programme.

I am also very encouraged by our AGM this year and the many new marketing and development initiatives we have started to keep the Finn at the forefront of world sailing, and I look forward to reporting soon about the work of the various new sub-committees.

I wish you all a good summer of Finn sailing and hope you enjoy the Olympics, whether you are sailing or watching.

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Cover photo: Oli Tweddell in Gaeta
Inset: Finn Gold Cup medalists
All photos: © Robert Deaves/Finn Class.

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Major Finn regattas 2016-2018
2016
3-9 July • Århus, Denmark
FINN SILVER CUP
(2016.finnsilvercup.org)
5-7 August • Christchurch
UK National Championship
5-21 August • Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2016 OLYMPIC GAMES
16-21 August • Moscow, Russia
International University Sailing Cup
(Students, U27)
23-28 August • Moscow, Russia
Open Russian
19-25 September • Qingdao, China
Sailing World Cup Qingdao
7-9 October • Malcesine
Finn Cup
13-16 October • Enoshima
JSAF Enoshima Olympic Week
5-11 December • Melbourne, Australia
Sailing World Cup Final Melbourne
17-22 December • Palamos
Christmas race

2017
5-13 May • Marseille, France
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP
2-9 June • Barbados
FINN WORLD MASTERS
18-27 August • Balatonfüred, Hungary
FINN SILVER CUP
1-10 Sept • Balatonföldvár, Hungary
FINN GOLD CUP

2018
TBC • Århus, Denmark
Sailing World Championships

More details and regatta links can be found on www.sailing.org or on www.finnclass.org. Please check all details before travelling as dates can change at short notice.
From the Masters President

It's hard to believe how quickly time flies. It struck me this morning when I realised that it was Sopot 2014 when we voted in the Finn Masters for Barbados, all be it, a jaded vote met still hanging in there after a mega rum party, where the fleet merrily consumed around 70 bottles of finest Mount Gay. Now the event is on the horizon, just around the corner.

Torbole has been a reminder to me that we have to be careful of the ‘land of promises’, the 2016 Championship was the largest Finn Event in history with 355 entries, together with Champagne conditions in a setting that was humbling.

However, there were various challenges – concerns I aired from the outset – and we will address those in the coming years. We have successfully operated on trust throughout the years, but as the event continues to grow, we also need, more than ever, to protect our interests and our assets.

I have asked Tim Carver to look at the masters handling the entry fees in the future, and the pitfalls we may encounter. Next year in Barbados is a slightly special case and the 20 Euro Masters fee will be paid in cash at registration. This fee is important to us and allows us to operate the organisation for the rest of the year. Those that come to the Masters meeting know the infrastructure within the organisation has expanded and is a great success, but there are many associated costs. We are therefore also grateful to our many generous sponsors including the Fantastica Sailing Team and Pantaenius.

Aside from a few hiccups the Masters is becoming more and more popular and although next year may see a fall in numbers, it will give us a chance to breath in readiness for an anticipated large turn out at El Balis in 2018.

I would like to thank the candidates that stood for the 2018 hosting and I was sorry that one of them had to lose. I would like to think that this doesn’t put them off and that we will see Marsala return for a bid.

In October I will be visiting Malta, which wishes to be considered for a future championship and whilst I was in Torbole, there was some serious discussions over Brisbane hosting in 2020, so we have to see if this is feasible.

Meanwhile, keep fit and get ready for Barbados.

Andy Denison
GBR 20

The Finn Class has partnered with Finn sailor and artist Rob Coutts to exclusively offer fine art prints of his distinctive oil paintings to help the class fund its FINNTEAM development programme.

The FINNTEAM is a group of five sailors training and learning together, with joint funding available through a Finn class initiative. Two members of the FINNTEAM, Alejandro Foglia (URU) and Facundo Olezza (ARG) have qualified for Rio.

The paintings are available as giclée fine art prints in a range of size. For more information and ordering please go to: www.finnclass.org/robcoutts
Sailing World Cup

The 2016 Sailing World Cup started in Melbourne shortly after the 2015 Finn Gold Cup, before moving to Miami, Hyeres and Weymouth & Portland. Next up is Qingdao followed by the final in Melbourne.

3. Sailing World Cup Hyeres

|   | Country | Name            | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 32  |
|---|---------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | AUS 41  | Jake Lilley     | 2   | 10  | 1   | 13  | (19)| 1   | 14  | 42  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 2 | AUS 261 | Oliver Tweddell | 7   | 3   | 2   | (18)| 4   | 11  | 12  | 6   | 45  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 3 | FRA 112 | Jonathan Lobert | 3   | 12  | 18  | 3   | 10  | (23)| 2   | 4   | 52  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 4 | NZL 24  | Josh Junior     | 4   | 1   | 5   | 7   | (ocs)| 17  | 3   | 16  | 53  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 5 | NOR 1   | Anders Pedersen | 1   | (14)| 12  | 6   | 2   | 10  | 4   | 18  | 53  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 6 | DEN 2   | Jonas Høgh-Christensen | 9 | 11  | 4   | 11  | (15)| 1   | 9   | 10  | 55  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 7 | BRA 109 | Jorge Zarif     | 16  | 7   | (17)| 8   | 1   | 5   | 6   | 12  | 55  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 8 | USA 6   | Caleb Paine     | 5   | 2   | 7   | 5   | (30)| 24  | 11  | 2   | 56  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 9 | CRO 524 | Ivan Kajkovic Gaspic | 6 | 4   | 3   | 13  | 3   | (18)| 7   | 2   | 56  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 10| SWE 33  | Max Salminen    | 8   | 15  | 6   | 15  | (16)| 7   | 5   | 8   | 64  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

11 GRE 77 Ioannis Mitakis 61 29 GER 595 Simon Gorgels 151
12 NZL-16 Andrew Murdoch 61 30 GER 252 Eike Tjark Martens 163
13 ITA 117 Giorgio Poggi 62 31 USA 74 Henny Sprague 170
14 ITA 66 Enrico Voltolini 67 32 SEY 1 Allan Julie 170
15 CRO 52 Nenad Bugarin 79 33 FRA 99 Marc Allain Des Beauvais 189
16 SWE 6 Björn Allansson 81
17 RUS 57 Egor Terpiporev 89
18 CRO 1 Josip Olujc 94
19 ESP-7 Alex Muscat 104
20 GER 259 Phillip Kasueske 104
21 CAN 110 Martin Roblaile 106
22 RUS 2 Aleksei Borisov 115
23 FRA 17 Fabian Pic 118
24 GER 25 Max Kohlhoff 119
25 RUS 6 Arkadiy Kistanov 129
26 ITA 147 Simone Ferrarese 139
27 CHN 1226 Lei Gong 141
28 CAN 2 Kyle Martin 150

It was Australia Day all week in Hyeres this year as Jake Lilley and Oliver Tweddell got to the sharp end of their Olympics trials and both raised their game enormously. It was a battle made for clichés and though Lilley led for much of the week, they both had their ups and downs and he went into the medal race after claiming three race wins. Rarely has there been so much drama in one 30 minute race with the medals changing hands several times, two huge comebacks and another comeback by Lilley at the end. It was sailed in 1-12 knots, with heavy rain, and with a wind that died and shifted 90 degrees. In fact the only constant was Caleb Paine who led the fleet all the way. It was TV gold, but a sailing nightmare.

After a bad start, Tweddell moved into third and started the final downwind, with Lilley in last place, with one hand on the gold medal. But then the wind died and started to shift to the right. Lilley made up one place. A long way in front of him Paine, Jonathan Lobert and Tweddell inched across the finish line. The wind shift allowed Lilley to get to the right side of two boats and he managed to cross in seventh to secure the gold, his first World Cup win.

Third place was enough for Tweddell to take the silver and second place gave Lobert the bronze.
Giles Scott won the last major event before heading off to the Olympics. A second place in the medal race at the 2016 Sailing World Cup Weymouth & Portland was enough to maintain his lead on the final day. Jonathan Lobert won the race to take the silver, while a fourth for Max Salminen left him with the bronze.

At the start of the week the talk was of challenging racing to prepare for Rio’s challenging conditions. However the only challenge was enough wind to be able to race. The first day was lost entirely. On the third and fourth days the weather only allowed one late race to take place. Just Thursday produced enough sailable breeze to allow three races to take place. Scott opened up a narrow lead in the small fleet only to lose it the following day to Ben Cornish. He regained the lead in Saturday’s only race to take a one point lead into the medal race.

Sunday dawned foggy and wet, but at least there was wind. By medal race time there was 10-12 knots from the south-west as well as dense low cloud hanging over Portland. There was still everything to play for. Lobert led at every mark to secure the race win while Scott climbed to second on the first downwind after a tight top mark rounding. He starting chasing down the French sailor, but could not catch him. Tapio Nirkko rounded out the top three. Salminen recovered to fourth to maintain the bronze position, but was looking in trouble half way through.

Lobert clearly likes medal races in Weymouth. He won the 2012 Olympic medal race to take the bronze medal four years and today he led from start to finish to move onto the podium.

“It was nice to hike a little bit after this light wind regatta. I am very happy to be able to stay in front of Giles to win another medal race in Weymouth, so it’s nice to finish the series like this.”

Four years ago Salminen was collecting a gold medal in the Star class. The three medalists in Weymouth this week did not meet on the water in 2012, but all will be fighting hard against each other in Rio.

Speaking about the medal race he said, “I took a bit too long to break free from the other boats to express my own speed, and that looked a bit hairy half way through. I was outside the podium but managed to fight my way through.”

Scott adds another victory to an already very long list. “This week served as a very good training regatta and that’s the way everyone here was taking it. But ultimately it’s another regatta and everyone wants to win it so to be able to do that is great.”

On the medal race, “It was a very physical race. We were all max heart rate. But it was a great race, with flat water and free pumping. It was an incredibly hard fought week.”

Speaking about the physicality of Finn sailing, “I think it is becoming ever more physical. The way the techniques have been developed, the free pumping downwind, has become increasingly physical and the margins for gains downwind, especially on a day like today, have become about as big as they have ever been so we need to be smart as well as strong and fit. It’s been a general trend over the last eight years really but it’s still being developed.”

1 GBR 41 Giles Scott  2 (5)  1  5  1  4  13
2 FRA 112 Jonathan Lobert  4  3  5 (ret)  2  2  16
3 SWE 33 Max Salminen  3 (6)  4  1  5  8  21
4 FIN 218 Tapio Nirkko  5  7  6  2 (ret)  6  26
5 GBR 91 Ben Cornish  1 (9)  2  3  4  16  26
6 FRA 17 Fabian Pic  6  1  7  4 (9)  12  30
7 GBR 71 Henry Wetherell (8)  4  3  7  3  18  35
8 GBR 29 Peter McCoy  (10)  8  9  8  6  10  41
9 AUS 41 Jake Lilley  9  2 (10) 10  7  14  42
10 FIN 225 Mikael Hyryläinen  7 (11)  8  6  8  20  49
11 FRA 99 Marc AD Beauvais (11) 10  11  9  10  40
The Finn Gold Cup in Gaeta, Italy was a week to remember. The fantastic scenery and hospitality, and the great racing conditions produced a fantastic and fun event, in which Giles Scott won his fourth Finn Gold Cup, his second inside of six months. Coming out of his first defeat in three years, at Palma, he only made one mistake all week when the patchy winds on the first day left him with a dangerously high score. But after that he was never worse than seventh to wrap up the title with a day to spare.

Jonas Høgh-Christensen took the silver after his most promising week since returning to the class in 2014. Only twice outside the top eight, he was only one race away from giving Scott a run for his money on the last day. Everyone fell foul of the light and tricky winds on the first four days of racing. The bronze went to Pieter-Jan Postma, some way back from the top two, but good enough to take his second major championship medal of the year.

Of course the event was also the 60th Finn Gold Cup, a fact of history not lost on most of the fleet. The championship was held from on Sunday 8 May to Friday 13 May and it would also mark the end of the Italian and Canadian Olympic trials, so there was a lot going on.

Engaging with the local community was a key part of the event. Before the racing started Deniss Karpak, Pieter-Jan Postma and Luca Simeone (Chair of the organisers) visited a local school to talk about the sailing, the Finn Gold Cup, and following life’s passion. The children were inspired by the visit of two Olympic sailors, and this led to a painting competition, judged by the sailors at the end of the week, and a podium ceremony, just after the medal race, held immediately after on the steps of the old town of Gaeta, which even attracted a local radio station to come along and broadcast the occasion live. It turned into a real celebration of sailing and a great occasion for the small town.

Karpak leads after day 1
Deniss Karpak mastered the light winds on first day after winning the opening race and then following that up with a third in the second. Giorgio Poggi was second, while Peter-Jan Postma was in a start in 6-7 knots of breeze and it never got much above 10 knots all day. The right side proved heavily favoured in race 1 with Matteo Savio rounding ahead from the right. He led until the start of the run when Karpak, who had made big gains on the second upwind, caught him and sailed past to take the win.
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In race 2, the leaders started at the pin and tacked across to the right as soon as they could. Høgh-Christensen judged it perfectly to lead all the way round. The first downwind was free pumping but the wind dropped and so did Oscar flag. The Dane built a huge lead on the first downwind, but Piotr Kula clawed it back on the second upwind to round a close second. Høgh-Christensen then pulled away on the final downwind for the win.

Phillip Kasueske wins only race on day 2
Light winds continued on the second day with only one race sailed. Phillip Kasueske sailed very well to win his first major international Finn race to move up to second overall.

There were a number of high profile black flag disqualifications including long time race leader Jorge Zarif. Four out of the top 10 finishers crossed the line to find their sail number on the board.

Kasueske started at the pin end and managed to find a gap to tack and cross the fleet. Zarif rounded in front and led all the way until half way down the final run when the German kept to the right and passed.

No wind on day 3
It was always looking like being the lightest day of the day and it proved to be so with never more than 5 knots across the course area. After two hours of waiting around in the hot Italian sunshine, PRO Peter Reggio called it a day and sent the fleet ashore.

Kasueske takes the lead on day 4
It was a long day for one race. The day started wet with lots of rain, and the sun came out as the fleet set out at 11.00 in a solid 14-18 knots, but by the time they reached the start it had dropped to 6 knots. After a two hour wait the fleet was sent ashore only to be turned around within 30 minutes as the wind returned.

Starting cleanly under a black flag, those at the pin who managed to tack and cross the fleet made the most of the right side with defending champion Giles Scott leading round for the first time. Scott extended downwind, with Høgh-Christensen coming through to second at the gate and Kasueske moving into third. Kasueske sailed the best second upwind to round just behind Scott and they finished in that order.

Though a sequence was started for a second race, the wind rapidly deteriorated and further racing was abandoned for the day.

Scott takes charge on day 5
Starting at 14-16 knots, the wind rose through the day, as did the sea state, to well over 20 knots, providing some awesome racing conditions for the strongest sailors in the world of sailing. It was a supreme test of physical prowess and sailing skill.

While Scott recorded a 7,1,1 to take an unassailable points lead into the medal race, Oliver Tweddell was the next best performer of the day with a 2,6,2. The first race was finally won by Fabian Pic after a titanic tussle with Tweddell through the race.

Finnale sailed with dramatic backdrop
Giles Scott lifted the Finn Gold Cup for the fourth time after a spectacular medal race sailed close to the shores of the impressive and historic old town of Gaeta. Townspeople and local children crowded the shoreline to get a view of the Finn class heroes as they battled hard against the beautiful backdrop of the medieval town. Though Scott had done enough to secure the title, and the race for the silver was reasonably secure, the battle for the bronze was very hot. In the end Høgh-Christensen won the medal race to take the silver and Postma was third to seal the bronze.

Giorgio Poggi led the medal race from the first mark to half way down the final run when Høgh-Christensen found a gust and sailed past. Postma stuck close to Ioannis Mitakis, but nearly lost to Jake Lilley on the opposite side as huge shifts came down the race course. In the end nothing changed in the top three.

Of the several national selection trials going on, the closest fight was the Italians. The 2008 Olympian Poggi, who was instrumental in bringing the event to Gaeta, was the best performer of the week, and later selected for Rio.

Poggi was, “I was very happy to have the event here in Gaeta but I said then that we’ll have some nice wind. In the first days we didn’t but at the end it came and was a really beautiful.”

“It was a really tough week with many sailors going up and down. For me there was only one bad race and all the other races I was always top 15 and this was the key to having a good championship this week.”

Once again, Scott looked dominant, winning with a day to spare to take the Finn Gold Cup again, to go into the
Sixty years ago the inspiration of two men set in motion the beginnings of a pinnacle sailing event, the enormous challenge of which has transcended generations and remains to this day one of the most coveted trophies to win in the sport of sailing.

The Finn Gold Cup was offered to the Finn class by Frederick G. ‘Tiny’ Mitchell of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club in Burnham-on-Crouch in the UK on the suggestion of Vernon Stratton, a later President of the International Finn Association and also winner of the Finn Gold Cup in 1960.

Neither man could have envisaged that this diminutive trophy would have such a high stature and still be hotly contested by the world’s best young sailors six decades later.

The first event was sailed at Burnham-on-Crouch in 1956 and won by André Nelis (BEL), with the great Paul Elvstrøm (DEN) beaten into second.

Over the past sixty years the Finn Gold Cup has been a beacon for supreme accomplishment in the sport of sailing, and one of its incontrovertible assets has been its inclusiveness. It is controlled by a Deed of Gift, which states the objective is to bring the maximum feasible number of young sailors from as many countries as possible for a week of racing.

Each year, young Finn sailors race against old Finn sailors. The highly experienced Finn sailors compete against the novices. It is part of the journey and tradition of the Finn class that Olympic medallists are able to line up alongside starry-eyed youngsters and compete on an even footing.

The Cup, which was replaced in 1975 after the original was lost in an air crash in 1973, along with the holder, Jorg Bruder of Brazil, on his way to defend his title in France, has been presented every year except one when it was withdrawn for political reasons.

Over the years the Finn Gold Cup has been held in most corners of the world, helping to develop and encourage local fleets: Rio, Moscow, Bermuda, Tallinn, Toronto, Long Beach, Auckland, Mexico have all witnessed the Finn Gold Cup, taking sailors to places that the normal regatta circuit often doesn’t touch. And no conversation about the Finn Gold Cup would be complete without mentioning some of the many legends that have looked the ultimate challenge square in the eye, and taken their place in sailing heritage – Paul Elvstrom, André Nelis, Willi Kuhweide, Jorg Bruder, Lasse Hjortnaes, Fredrik Lööf, Ben Ainslie, Giles Scott…the list will continue to grow.
The 2016 World Masters will go down in history for being the largest Finn event of all time (so far) and for a gladiatorial battle to be champion that was only decided in the last minutes of the final race.

An astonishing 355 Finns made it Circolo Vela Torbole at the northern end of Lake Garda for a week of fantastically competitive and close racing. In fact the Finn fleet was dotted around all the clubs from Riva to Torbole. Lanfranco Cirillo, the major sponsor of the event through his Fantastica Sailing Team, spoke through the rain at the opening ceremony about the spirit of the Finn class and Finn sailors. He said The Finn was an Olympic class for all, for the strongmen of the sailing world. “The Finn is not just a boat, it is a lifestyle.” Not many present disagreed with his sentiments.

Competitors in Torbole included many former Olympians and many former champions. Increasing numbers of sailors are returning to the class for the great competition that it offers and the standard is rising every year.

The scope of the racing was immense, with the fleet split into four starting groups on two course areas covering almost the entire visible water at that end of the lake. Early on it was fairly clear who the front runners were going to be with defending champion Vladimir Krutskikh and 2004 Olympic silver medalist Rafa Trujillo, sailing at his first World Masters, winning every race in their groups over the first three days.

Behind them, six time Masters champion Michael Maier and Piet Eckert were stringing together a series of top scores that left them in touch with the two leaders. The next group of Paul McKenzie, and Christof Burger, Laurent Hay, Harles Liv, Marc Allain des Beauvais and Yuri Tokovoi could hardly be separated. With four starting groups, it was almost impossible to get any significant points advantage if you were always at the front of the fleet, as shown by the fact that come the medal race on the final day, any of the top 10 could mathematically still have won the event, with only 14 points separating them. And in spite of a completely random selection fleet allocation, some of the top sailors still hadn’t sailed against each other.

Many sailors arrived early at Torbole to put in some practice.
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and were rewarded by a week of very light winds and rain. However, by the day of the practice race the weather had returned to normal and on four of the five days of actual racing, a cold 14-20 knot Ora swept down the lake challenging the fleet with tight tactical racing into the corners.

Lake Garda has been called by some sailors as a University of Sailing. Everyone learned something about the nuances of sailing on Europe’s most famous lake. The Finn is also a university for life with stories and memories told and relived each evening in the bars and restaurants of Torbole. It was a huge melting pot of experience and knowledge.

But even if some sailors didn’t have
With friends made through a lifetime of involvement in the class. Many of those who raced in the early Veteran worlds were present in Torbole, attracted by the spirit of the class and the intense competition. No one gives away an inch in a Finn race and that is as true today as it was half a century ago, at all levels.

On the Thursday all racing was abandoned ashore as rain and unstable winds from the wrong direction meant any fair racing was going to be difficult. So the positions from Wednesday determined who would sail the medal race and for the first time ever, all ten sailors entering the medal race at the Finn World Masters in Torbole had a chance of walking away with the title.

Whatever the outcome of the final races, everyone was a winner with a spectacular day of sailing. The medal race itself was as dramatic as it was scenic. Sailed up against Garda’s steep walls, the lead changed three times before the finish. Maier took an early lead and sailed away for what looked like a certain seventh title. But Trujillo wasn’t quite finished and worked his way towards the front after a mediocre first upwind. He was right behind Maier and Krutskikh at the final top mark and split gybes on the run to the finish. The gamble paid and he found enough pressure to sail through for another race win and the title. Krutskikh passed Maier for second. It was a thrilling end to a thrilling week.

All week Grand Masters, Grand Grand Masters and Legends have been trading places with the younger Masters. The Masters and Grand Masters medals were all contained

the day on the water they wanted, the scenery around them was simply breathtaking. The geography of the area that creates its world famous winds dominated the racing, with the huge mountainsides towering above the small boats putting everything into perspective. But it is the boat, the fantastic Finn, which is the true equaliser.

After nearly fifty years of competition, the Finn World Masters remains one of the most important events in the Finn year. A quarter of a century ago the event name was changed from the Veteran Gold Cup to the Finn World Masters to reflect this. The Masters has been often copied but never matched. It has survived because of the camaraderie and support of large numbers of Finn sailors worldwide who enjoy racing a great boat.
within the top 10 with Trujillo also winning the Masters title, Maier took the Grand Masters while Marc Allain des Beavuas won the Grand Grand Masters title by a sizeable margin. In the coveted Legend category, Howard Sellers won the title for a record equaling third time.

For the first time ever the class introduced a prize for Super Legends (over 80). Pedro Jimenez-Meifren may have been the only one, but he got the biggest cheer of anyone at the prizegiving, simply because he epitomised everything that the other 354 sailors hoped to emulate when they reached that age – the ability to still sail the Finn. Pedro also completed most races when sailors half his age were staying on shore.

Victory for Trujillo is a milestone for the class – the first time an Olympic medalist has won the title. He said he would be back. “The group of sailors in the Finn masters are very much and I really enjoyed my time here. I enjoy coaching the Finn but I still enjoy sailing it as well.”

Everyone returned home said that the event was over for another year but buoyed by the knowledge that in one year’s time, the Finn World Masters fleet will meet again, in Barbados.

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FINNFARE AUGUST 2016  ~  15
The road to Rio is almost at an end. For most of the 23 Finn sailors who will race for the ultimate prize in August, it has been a long and winding road, with many pitfalls, dead ends and road works.

There is not much doubt that Rio’s waters will provide perhaps the biggest challenge of the sailor’s careers. The unseen currents, the changeable winds, and the hidden dangers beneath the surface will all conspire to create a fascinating Games that even the favourite, four times World Champion Giles Scott, will not take for granted.

Sailors have spent longer training at the venue than at any previous Olympics, many starting three years ago to familiarise themselves with the conditions. Many have based themselves there for protracted periods to get to grips with Rio’s idiosyncrasies. Most are fully aware it won’t take much for everything to go horribly wrong for them.

That Scott has won almost everything in sight since his failure to beat Ben Ainslie for the British place at the London 2012 Olympics means very little. Rio 2016 is just one more regatta he wants to win; perhaps more than all the rest put together, but he knows it will not be easy. The others know he is the favourite, but they also know he can be beaten, and that is the challenge facing them.

Scott has lost two Finn regattas since the 2011 British trials. That’s a record of some 19 wins in 21 regattas starting with the 2011 European title. But the unexpected can happen, as it did in Palma in April of this year, when an unforeseen rudder pintle breakage probably cost him another regatta win.

The man to take advantage of that was Josh Junior, who goes into the Games as the only man in Rio with bragging rights over Scott in more than five years. It may not be much, but it is something to grasp with both hands.

Mid-cycle Scott was about an unbeatable as it was possible to imagine, winning regattas with two races to spare and sometimes by as much as 50 points. He was clearly a cut above the rest and his smooth, almost casual style spoke volumes of an innate skill in the boat that transcended his previous training partner and mentor, Ainslie. He was bigger, stronger and fitter. He was making it look too easy.

Wake up call
That success was also a wake up call to the rest of the fleet. They realised that unless they started to catch up, and quickly, the gold medal in Rio was as good as gone.

Over the following two years Scott continued to win every regatta, but just occasionally the winning margins became less. Several times he had to fight himself back into a regatta. Nevertheless, in this cycle he has won three world titles from 2014 to 2016, the European title in 2014 and perhaps more significantly, both Olympic test events in Rio. At last year’s test event he struggled all week only to get break in the medal race and snatch the gold at the last possible moment.

Qualification
Qualification for Rio started at the 2014 ISAF Sailing World Championships in Santander. Apart from BRA as host nation, 12 nations qualified there: GBR, CRO, FRA, NZL, USA, NOR, SWE, DEN, SLO, AUS, HUN, FIN. Next CHN won the Asian place at the Sailing World Cup Qingdao, NED, GRE, EST, URU and ITA qualified from the 2015 Finn Gold Cup in Takapuna, CAN and ARG won the North and South American places at the 2016 Sailing World Cup Miami, and finally at the 2016 Princess Sofia Regatta, TUR won the final European place, with SEY winning the African place. It was the most complicated and long drawn out qualification system ever used for sailing.

For a change, all those who qualified met their

Giles Scott slaps his deck in delight as he comes back from behind all week long to win the 2015 Rio Test Event.
National criteria and were given their tickets to Rio. Of the 23, just seven are sailing their first Olympics, seven are sailing their second, five are sailing their third, two are sailing their fourth and two are sailing their fifth: Vasilij Zbogar and Allan Julie. Zbogar is the oldest sailor this year at 40, though the average age has dropped from 30 in 2012 to 29 in 2016.

Looking at it quantitatively, based on recent performance, about 10-12 sailors have the capacity to medal, and around 18-20 have performed well enough to make the medal race on August 16.

Junior is uppermost in most people’s mind as a possible toppler of the great Scott. He only moved into the Finn in 2013 after a failed attempt to win the 2012 Laser campaign from Andrew Murdoch, who also moved into the Finn after 2012. Junior’s biggest problem used to be consistency, but having won the NZL trials against Murdoch, one of the most conservative sailors in the game, perhaps he has now got that under control.

Junior has spent much of the past year training with Pieter-Jan Postma, perhaps the most flamboyant, risk taking sailor in the fleet. The partnership has clearly worked though as both sailors have benefitted from each other. Postma has lurked near the top for years, but always failed to convert potential to gold. That changed in 2014 with his first major victory at the Hyeres World Cup, but it took another two years before he would win his first title, the 2016 European Championship.

While NZL qualified in the first round at the 2014 ISAF Worlds in Santander, Postma had to wait until the Finn Gold Cup in Takapuna to win his place.

Of the 23 sailors in Rio, only 11 sailed the Finn at London 2012, including two of the medallists, Jonas Høgh-Christensen and Jonathan Lobert.

After winning silver in London, and narrowly missing the gold, Høgh-Christensen stepped away from Finn sailing for two years. He returned in the summer of 2014 to qualify Denmark in Santander, though was still unsure whether he wanted to do another Olympic campaign. However, he didn’t take much persuading and by Palma in 2015 he had a full programme running, culminating in a second place at this year’s Gold Cup.

In contrast, Lobert never stopped. However it took him another three years to win his first major championship medal, silver in Takapuna in 2015. Lobert is part of the group that has probably spent more time in Rio than any other foreign sailor. Together with Max Salminen and Tapio Nirkko the group should know the conditions well enough, but have sacrificed that knowledge against regatta experience.

If local knowledge proves key, then the fleet also includes Brazil’s 2013 World Champion and winner in Miami this year, Jorge Zarif, who should be pushing the front.

Other experienced sailors include three time European champion Ivan Kljakovic Gapsic, third time Olympian, Deniss Karpak, and for the second time Giorgio Poggi.

**Rising stars**

Of the new young group sailing their first Olympics, Jake Lilley is perhaps one of the brightest stars. He towers over most of the fleet and has been steadily rising through the ranks over the past three years and could pose a threat at the front. Caleb Paine and Anders Pedersen are equally promising and are all capable of a result. In contrast, Tom Ramshaw has spent less than a year in the boat, but has achieved some phenomenal results in that short time. If these sailors continue progressing at the same rate, they are going to be the front runners in Tokyo.

One of the success stories of the last cycle has been the establishment of the Dinghy Academy in Valencia. That success is reflected in the number of sailors based there that qualified for Rio, or have used it as a training venue on their road to Rio. Nine of the 23 sailors have benefitted from Luca Devoti’s experience and training methods including Zsombor Berecz, who won silver at this year’s Europeans and double Olympic Laser medallist Vasilij Zbogar. In addition, two of those sailors – Facundo Olezza and Alejandro Foglia – have also been directly funded through the Finn class development programme to train in Valencia.

**Form book**

However, what all the sailors are saying, whatever their past results would otherwise indicate, is that this will be an Olympics where past form means very little. They all agree that these Games will be very tough to manage, and very difficult to predict, and to win you have to be the best all round sailor - and perhaps a little lucky.
Facundo Olezza (ARG)

Age: 21
World Ranking (highest): 64 (61)
Previous Olympics: None
Recent results: SWC Miami 2016 (10), Europeans 2016 (69), Palma (58), Silver Cup 2015 (8)

Facundo Olezza is the youngest of the Finn sailors competing in Rio. He started sailing the Finn in February 2015, when he grew too big to sail the Laser, also after some 49er sailing in Argentina. When he switched to the Finn he joined the Dinghy Academy in Valencia and has not looked back. He has only competed in six major events in his Finn career, but his coach, Luca Devoti, sees enormous potential in the young sailor. Having spent most of the year recovering from injury, he sailed the Sailing World Cup Miami with a partially healed broken hand to qualify Argentina for the South American place in Rio, practicing and learning new techniques over the New Year to be able to race.

Jake Lilley (AUS)

Age: 23
World Ranking (highest): 5 (2)
Previous Olympics: None
Recent results: Finn Gold Cup 2016 (4), Hyeres 2016 (1), Europeans 2016 (37), Palma 2016 (4), Miami 2016 (4)

Jake Lilley stands head and shoulders over most of the fleet and is beginning to show a lot of potential on the race course with several top results in the past year. He qualified Australia for Rio in 2014 but then had an extended trials against Oliver Tweddell that only ended after the Gold Cup this year, after both sailors raised their game enough for a 1, 2 finish in Hyeres. An intensely physical sailor Lilley started sailing Finns in 2012, when at 2 metres tall and 96 kg he had outgrown the Laser. He soon found his way in the Finn and early on set himself some very high goals, and with his then coach, John Bertrand, won the 2014 Junior European title.

Jorge Zarif (BRA)

Age: 23
World Ranking (highest): 7 (6)
Previous Olympics: 2012 (20)
Best Results: Finn Gold Cup 2013 (1)
Recent Results: Finn Gold Cup (17), Hyeres (7), Palma (9), Europeans (7), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (7)

Jorge Zarif was the youngest sailor in the Finn fleet at 2012 Olympics, just 19, but one year later went on to win the world title in Tallinn, Estonia. He has been mainly coached by Rafa Trujillo during this cycle, and has had moderate success at some regattas, notably winning the Miami World Cup in 2016 against a top class field. Zarif has been competing in the Finn since 2008 when he was just 15. Though he sails from the late Clube do Rio de Janeiro, his hometown is São Paulo, where he won his seventh Brazilian national title in February. He is now just two short of the record set by his father, the late Jorge Zarif Zeto, who competed in the Finn in the 1984 and 1988 Olympics.

Tom Ramshaw (CAN)

Age: 24
World Ranking (highest): 27 (27)
Previous Olympics: None
Recent results: Finn Gold Cup 2016 (8), Europeans 2016 (10), Miami 2016 (13), Palma 2016 (31)

Tom Ramshaw only took up Finn sailing at the end of 2015 after taking a break from the Laser, when it was suggested he try the boat. He immediately knew it was the boat for him, qualified Canada for Rio at the SWC Miami in January 2016 and then produced an outstanding 10th place at his first overseas Finn event at the Europeans in Barcelona. He followed that with six weeks training at the Dinghy Academy in Valencia before placing eighth at the Finn Gold Cup in Gaeta, to be selected shortly after. His progress after just nine months in the boat has been nothing short of astonishing.
Lei Gong (CHN)

Age: 33  
World Ranking (highest): 56 (56)  
Previous Olympics: 2012 (24)  
Recent results: Hyeres (27), Miami (7), Finn Gold Cup 2015 (52), SWC Qingdao 2015 (1), Rio Test Event 2015 (17)

Lei Gong is sailing his third Olympic campaign and Rio will be his second Olympics. His best result of this cycle was a seventh at this year’s Miami World Cup, including a string of top seven places. While China does have a strong fleet of Finn sailors, they rarely appear at international events. Gong is no exception having sailed only eight ranking events since 2012. He goes into the Olympics as one of the lowest ranked sailors, but three places higher than in 2012. His first international event was the Europeans in 2004 where he picked up the bronze medal in the Junior European championship.

Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic (CRO)

Age: 32  
World Ranking (highest): 12 (1)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 (8), 2012 (5)  
Best results: European Champion 2009, 2010, 2015; 2009 Finn Gold Cup (3)  
Recent results: 2016 Europeans (8), 2016 Finn Gold Cup (20), Hyeres (9), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (20)

Ivan Kljakovic Gaspic is one of the most experienced sailors in the fleet with an excellent record of regatta wins and top finishes. However since claiming his third European title last year he has failed to live up to expectations, as seen in his drop from world No 1 in October 2015 to his current 12th. This is perhaps largely due to a tense and often heated Olympic trials against Milan Vujasinovic, which was only settled at the Finn Gold Cup this year. However Gaspic is a formidable sailor in all conditions and generally one of the most consistent sailors on the circuit.

Jonas Høgh-Christensen (DEN)

Age: 35  
World Ranking (highest): 6 (1)  
Previous Olympics: 2004 (9), 2008 (6), 2012 (2)  
Best results: World Champion 2006, 2009  
Recent results: 2016 Finn Gold Cup (2), Hyeres (6), Palma (16), 2016 Europeans (12), Miami (2)

Jonas Høgh-Christensen has the knack of peaking at just the right time, and is one of the smartest sailors on the circuit. After a disappointing 2008 Olympics where he was one of the favourites he took several years off. He won his second Finn Gold Cup in 2009 after a year out of the boat, before coming back a year later with a superb campaign for London 2012. After that he went back to the music industry in Denmark before coming out of retirement for a second time in 2014. His results over the last year show a familiar upward trend as he heads into his fourth Olympics in the Finn.

Deniss Karpak (EST)

Age: 30  
World Ranking (highest): 19 (1)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 Laser (24), 2012 (11)  
Best results: 2011 Finn Gold Cup (8)  
Recent results: 2016 Finn Gold Cup (13), Europeans (40), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (11), Kiel 2015 (1), Kiel 2016 (4)

Deniss Karpak moved into the Finn after the 2008 Olympics after he got too big for the Laser and has been a regular in the top 20, occasionally top 10 ever since, including winning races at all levels. He led the 2016 Finn Gold Cup early on before suffering on the windier days at the end. Even though he is one of the tallest and biggest sailors in the fleet he seems to produce his best in the lighter trickier winds, which could bode well for Rio. Karpak has won the Sailor of the Year in Estonia on numerous occasions and was the Best Young Athlete of the Year in Estonia in 2007.

Tapio Nirkko (FIN)

Age: 31  
World Ranking (highest): 13 (7)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 (18), 2012 (10)  
Best results: 2015 Test Event (2), 2009 Europeans (2)  
Recent results: Palma (3), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (10), Hyeres (34), Weymouth (4)

Tapio Nirkko is a very tall and strong sailor, as well as a very hard to predict sailor. He is clearly capable of beating everyone on his day but has often struggled with consistency when it counts. For many years he has been the only competitive Finn sailor in Finland. On the occasions when he has put it all together he is a force to be reckoned with, and picking up the silver medal at the 2015 Test Event in Rio was not only the best regatta he has ever sailed, but also a sign of his true potential. He is one of a few sailors who have spent huge amounts of time training in Rio, so should have a good handle on the conditions to remain consistent.
Jonathan Lobert (FRA)

Age: 31  
World Ranking (highest): 2 (2)  
Previous Olympics: 2012 (2)  
Best results: 2015 Finn Gold Cup (3)  
Recent results: 2015 Test Event (4), Palma (8), Hyeres (3), Weymouth (2)

Jonathan’s Lobert’s bronze medal at the 2012 Olympics was until late in 2015 his only major medal in the Finn class. For many years he failed to convert his potential into a medal, except at Weymouth and he has a very athletic style in the boat, especially downwind. Now that he has overcome his medal shortage with a silver at the 2015 Finn Gold Cup, his confidence has blossomed and he is one of the top favourites in Rio. His selection for Rio was almost assured after long time training partner Thomas Le Breton dropped out of the race, allowing Lobert to focus on training in Rio, and he has done a lot of that.

Giles Scott (GBR)

Age: 29  
World Ranking (highest): 1 (1)  
Previous Olympics: None  
Recent results: 2015 Test Event (1), Weymouth (1), Palma (2)

Giles Scott goes into the Olympics as the absolute favourite after only being beaten twice in the last five years. Apart from gear failure in Palma this year, he is unbeaten since April 2013. He has spent considerable time in Rio training and has only competed in four major regattas since last year’s test event. Many thought he would have won gold at London 2012 given the chance, but he lost out to Ben Ainslie for selection. Now he finally has his chance and following his recent win at the Weymouth World Cup he will go into the Games as reigning world champion and World No. 1.

Ioannis Mitakis (GRE)

Age: 26  
World Ranking (highest): 10 (6)  
Previous Olympics: 2012 (14)  
Best results: Europeans (1)  
Recent results: 2016 Finn Gold Cup (6), Hyeres (11), Palma (6), 2016 Europeans (9), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (9), 2015 Test Event (16)

Ioannis Mitakis first appeared in a Finn in 2009 and took the Junior European title twice before moving on to taking the 2012 senior European title in very light and shifty winds. A clearly talented sailor, he has upped his game since London 2012 and is regularly in the top ten at major events, including winning many races but has yet to take a medal at a major event since the 2012 win. Though historically better in lighter winds, he has also improved in a breeze to become a great all round sailor and should be challenging the front in Rio.

Zsombor Berecz (HUN)

Age: 30  
World Ranking (highest): 38 (14)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 Laser (29), 2012 Laser (21)  
Best results: 2016 Europeans (2)  
Recent results: 2015 Finn Gold Cup (23)  
Palma (7), 2015 Test Event (11)

Zsombor Berecz moved into the Finn after two Olympics in the Laser and immediately started producing results. Coming from Lake Balaton, he made the decision early on to join the Dinghy Academy in Valencia and has clearly benefitted from training there ever since. Going into the Games he perhaps lacks regatta practice, preferring to train in his Valencia group, having only competed in three events since last year’s test event, but picked up silver at the Europeans this year, the highest placed Hungarian ever at an International Finn championship.

Giorgio Poggi (ITA)

Age: 34  
World Ranking (highest): 16 (6)  
Previous Olympics: 2008 (11)  
Best results: 2016 Finn Gold Cup (5)  
Recent results: Hyeres (13), Palma (27), 2016 Europeans (33), Miami 11, 2015 Finn Gold Cup (24)

Giorgio Poggi won perhaps the most intense of all the Olympic trials to earn his space in Rio, fighting all the way to the Finn Gold Cup this year when a fifth place earned him his ticket. After sailing in 2008 and narrowly missing the medal race, he lost a close 2012 trials. This time around he has been coached by Emilios Papathanasiou, and is sailing as well as he has ever done. He has certainly raised his game for the selections, producing his best ever result at the Finn Gold Cup, the question is whether he can continue this form through to the Games. Between 2002 to 2008 Poggi won six gold medals in different classes at the Italian national championships.
### Pieter-Jan Postma (NED)

**Age:** 34  
**World Ranking (highest):** 3 (2)  
**Previous Olympics:** 2008 (14), 2012 (4)  
**Best results:** 2016 Europeans (1), 2011 Finn Gold Cup (2), 2016 Finn Gold Cup (3)  
**Recent results:** 2015 Test Event (3), Palma (5), 2016 Europeans (14), Miami (8), 2015 Test Event (1)

Pieter-Jan Postma is undoubtedly the most popular sailor on the circuit with a very positive and introspective outlook, but this has been as much hindrance as a help, as he has been prone to taking unnecessary risks. He was heading for a medal in London 2012, but for a last minute rash move. Since then has refocussed and is more calm than ever before. His European title win this year comes amid a string of podium potential performances over the last 12 months, including leading the 2015 Test Event every day, only losing gold the punishing medal race, something that he intends to rectify this year.

### Anders Pedersen (NOR)

**Age:** 24  
**World Ranking (highest):** 11 (10)  
**Previous Olympics:** None  
**Best Results:** 2014 Finn Silver Cup (1), 2014 Finn Gold Cup (8)  
**Recent results:** Hyeres (5), Palma (14), 2016 Europeans (14), Miami (8), 2015 Test Event (1)

Anders Pedersen is one of the rising stars of the Finn fleet. After a seminal 2014 season in which he won the Junior Worlds and qualified Norway for the Olympics at the ISAF Worlds in Santander, he has improved to the point where he is regularly at the top of big fleets and challenging the big names. Coached by Peer Moberg, since 2015 he has also trained alongside Jonas Høgh-Christensen and hopes learn more from the Dane’s experience. Pedersen started in the Optimist aged six and found he could overcome a fear of sailing by himself by practicing, so has been practicing for this ever since.

### Josh Junior (NZL)

**Age:** 26  
**World Ranking (highest):** 3 (1)  
**Previous Olympics:** None  
**Best results:** Palma 2016 (1), 2015 Europeans (2)  
**Recent results:** Hyeres (4), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (14), 2015 Test Event (5), 2016 Europeans (4)

Josh Junior is from Wellington and has been sailing since he was five years old. He won selection to in the Laser class in 2012. Junior is one of the brightest talents in the fleet and the only sailor in Rio to have bragging rights that he has beaten Giles Scott since 2012. His win in Palma this year was a career highlight and his first major win in the class. A former New Zealand match racing champion, he goes into Rio as a firm favourite for a medal as long as he can keep consistency, which has often been his downfall in the past. Junior is coached by John Cutler, who took bronze in the Finn at Seoul 1988.
Allan Julie (SEY)

Age: 39
World Ranking (highest): 89 (89)
Recent results: 2016 Finn Gold Cup (45), Palma (56), Hyeres (32), 2016 Europeans (62)

Allan Julie sailed four Olympics in the Laser and is a national sporting hero in his native Seychelles. He was tempted back to the Olympics by the opportunity of winning the African nation place and duly qualified in Palma this year. A product of the SailCoach programme he has been helped by his good friend Vasilij Zbogar, from the days training together in Lasers. Julie won gold in the Laser at the 2011 All-Africa Games in Maputo, Mozambique. At the 2004 Olympics, as the most experienced member of the Seychelles team, Julie was the flag bearer for Seychelles at the opening ceremony. He has also been Seychelles Sportsman of the Year five times.

Vasilij Zbogar (SLO)

Age: 40
World Ranking (highest): 35 (4)
Previous Olympics: Laser: 2000 (19), 2004 (3), 2008 (2); Finn: 2012 (6)
Best results: 2013 Europeans (1), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (3), 2015 Europeans (3)
Recent results: 2016 Europeans (6), Test Event (13)

Vasilij Zbogar is a four time Olympian already and has the dubious honour of being the oldest Finn sailor in Rio. After a tough trials for 2012, he was selected early for 2016 and like many has focussed on training in Valencia rather than travelling, having competed in only three events in the past year. He lost much of the 2015 season after a cycling accident, but recovered to take his first world championship medal at the 2015 Finn Gold Cup. He is one of the most famous sportsmen in Slovenia and his first medal in 2004 also won him Slovenian Sportsman of the Year.

Max Salminen (SWE)

Age: 27
World Ranking (highest): 4 (4)
Previous Olympics: 2012 Star (1)
Best results: 2015 Finn Gold Cup (5), 2013 Europeans (7)
Recent results: Weymouth (3), Hyeres (10), Palma (10), La Rochelle 2015 (1), 2015 Test Event (6)

Max Salminen moved into the Finn class after winning the gold in the Star class at the London 2012 Olympics, along with his helm Freddy Lööf. For Rio he won a fairly tense and close trials against Björn Allansson and has improved year on year to the point where he is now regularly qualifying for medal races. He has spent more time training in Rio than most of the fleet – he says 150 days – and less time at regattas. Coached by Dayne Sharp, he is a quick and tactically astute sailor and stands a good chance at claiming a medal to add to his London gold.
Alican Kaynar (TUR)

Age: 27
World Ranking (highest): 20 (17)
Previous Olympics: 2012 (18)
Best results: 2013 Europeans (10)
Recent results: 2016 Finn Gold Cup (21), Palma (18), 2016 Europeans (27), Miami (17), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (34)

Alican Kaynar has been the only internationally competitive Finn sailor in Turkey this cycle and has largely been based at the Dinghy Academy since 2012, but more recently has been training alongside Giorgio Poggi. He qualified Turkey for the Olympics at the last possible chance, in Palma this year. He has always shown far more promise than he has delivered, winning races at major events, but rarely finishing inside the top 10 at the end. However he is a skilled and intelligent sailor who is more than capable of being in the medal race come 16 August.

Alejandro Foglia (URU)

Age: 32
World Ranking (highest): 45 (36)
Previous Olympics: Laser: 2004 (34), 2008 (17), 2012 (8)
Best results: 2016 Europeans (12)
Recent results: Palma (22), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (17), 2015 Europeans (13)

Alejandro Foglia is the first Uruguay Finn sailor to compete at the Olympics since 1968 and only the second athlete in the history of Uruguay to qualify for four Olympic Games. At the 2008 Olympics he was the flagbearer for the Uruguay team. He qualified for the final open spot at the Olympics during the 2015 Finn Gold Cup in Takapuna. Since he joined the Finn class in 2013 he has been supported by the Finn class development programme, FIDeS, and moved to Valencia to train at the Dinghy Academy. In spite of a series of injuries setting back his campaign he remains one of the fittest Finn sailors in the fleet.

Caleb Paine (USA)

Age: 25
World Ranking (highest): 9 (1)
Previous Olympics: None
Best results: 2012 Delta Lloyd Regatta (1), 2015 Finn Gold Cup (12)
Recent results: Hyeres (8), Palma (13), 2016 Europeans (24), Miami (6), 2015 Test Event (15)

Caleb Paine is described as the most hard working sailor on the circuit. He says it’s because he need to train to make up for lack of talent. That hard work paid off earlier this year in Barcelona when he overcame double Olympian Zach Railey to earn his chance to represent the USA in Rio. That regatta of course including the now famous mark trap incident from Railey that so nearly cost Paine his Olympic dream. Paine was introduced to the Finn in 2008 and has been moving in one direction ever since. Following a brief period in 2012, when he won the World Cups in Medemblik and Miami, he became the World No. 1.
A new youth initiative from the British Finn class has been established to enable aspiring young sailors make the transition from local fleets to international competition by providing a range of training and funding opportunities.

The U23 squad consists of six sailors between the ages of 16 and 19 and is coached by former British Sailing Team member James Hadden. The inspiration for the project came from the British Finn Association (BFA) trying to provide a structured pathway for young sailors who outgrow classes such as the Laser (more than 90kg) to continue into the Finn class at a high level.

The BFA squad provides the U23 squad with training and various funding to compete at a limited number of events, with the key objective being to achieve high-level results at the Under 23 World Championship. For the successful sailors it also represents a possible route into the national team.

The 2016 squad has been formed with six sailors: Jack Arnell (18), Markus Bettum (19), Callum Dixon (16), Matt Stevens (19), Joe Stocker (18) and Cameron Tweedle (17).

The sailors come from a diverse range of sailing backgrounds, range from 92 to 110 kg in weight, and are around 190-200 cm in height. All are too big to sail anything else at this level and are committed to the programme that the BFA has established. All of them have at least four more years at U23 level – the youngest has eight years – so there is plenty of scope to develop and create the champions of the future.

Recently the squad had a great week of training and sailing, at the Weymouth & Portland Sailing Academy, in a mix of conditions, and were joined by some of the National Team. It proved great preparation for July's Finn Silver Cup (the U23 World Championship) in Denmark at which all six will compete alongside two British Sailing Team sailors, Henry Wetherell and Hector Simpson, in a fleet of around 40 of the world’s best young Finn sailors.

James Hadden said of the week, “The training camp was all about preparing for the Under 23 Worlds. We spent the week working on improving speed, and continuing their fitness development. We were lucky to have the British Sailing Team Podium Potential squad members join in for the week as well so the lads got a chance to line up against some experienced fast sailors, like Pete McCoy. It was encouraging to see the lads were pushing the PP sailors hard all week in a variety of conditions. The team are already very close and work really well with each other.”

Bettum says he learned a lot from the training camp and that he expects to benefit enormously from being included in the squad. “I thought the training camp was extremely beneficial for me. I got to work on all my weak points and got to train in a fantastic and friendly environment, which definitely sped up the learning process. The coaching was very high quality and I got plenty of attention, which helped me to improve.”

“I think the programme as a whole is fantastic and it offers a great path for young sailors who are too heavy for other classes. I think I will keep on improving with the help of this programme and I’m sure other young British sailors will as well.”

The squad also recently underwent a physical assessment from Ben Ainslie’s Land Rover BAR strength and conditioning team. The squad were joined by their coach James Hadden and Coordinator Ray New at the impressive BAR headquarters in Portsmouth, UK.

The young sailors were each put through five separate tests for nearly two hours, each designed to test their Finn specific fitness. The sailors received a detailed assessment of their physical condition with pointers on areas to concentrate on. The fitness team also works closely with Giles Scott, so know exactly the strengths and techniques required by top Finn sailors and passed on invaluable training tips to the U23 squad.

“The visit to BAR was fantastic both in terms of learning and improving physically but also as an inspiration; it is a great privilege to be invited to train at the gym for the day and also to meet some...”
of the team,” commented Tweedle.

Arnell said, “It was such a nice day to go down to team BAR, and it was great to see the guys again. I thought the training was tough but really enjoyed the effort. I learned that it is such an explosive sport and I have taken lots from the fitness test – overall I really enjoyed myself.”

Hadden added, “The fitness testing at BAR certainly helped as a team building exercise as well.”

BFA Chairman John Heyes said youth development is a key aim of the Finn class. “It was my stated ambition when elected that we should develop our young Finn sailors. Whilst some youngsters are lucky enough to be fast-tracked into the RYA development squads directly from their youth classes, others are not so fortunate and find it hard to gain the necessary international competition to break through to the next level. We discussed our plans with the RYA Finn coaches who were very supportive and promised to keep an eye on any rising stars for inclusion in the National Team.”

“So I am really pleased that we have top coaching support from James Hadden, while GAC Pindar have generously supported the team with technical clothing from Zhik, who also kindly provided additional sponsorship.”

“Hopefully the scheme will grow and will encourage and support more young athletes sailing the Finn.”

In addition, the BFA provides a grant of £500 each for the top two U23 sailors in the British Travellers Trophy Series, which is largely funded by selling Personal Sail Numbers to the British fleet. An application has also been made for a Sport England grant to obtain a one-time grant to fund the 2017 programme, which will begin as soon as the 2016 U23 World Championship is complete.

The programme is being coordinated by Ray New of the British Finn Association. To find out more please contact training@finnuk.org.uk.
Finn sailing - redefined

- boom with two stage lever
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IFA AGM 2016

INTERNATIONAL FINN ASSOCIATION
2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Gaeta, Italy

MINUTES
7th of May 2016

1 National Class Associations
15 countries representing a total of 21 votes
and 5 voting members of the Executive
Committee were present.

2 Minutes from the last meeting
The minutes from the 2015 IFA AGM
(Previously circulated on IFA websites,
secretaries) were approved.

3. Accounts
a. The 2015 accounts are approved.
b. The 2016/2017 budget is approved with the
amendment of the event media fee for Aarhus
2018.

4. Executive Committee Reports (see
finnclass.org for full texts)
a. the President
b. the Vice-President Sailing
c. the Vice-President Development
d. the Vice-President Masters
e. the Treasurer
f. the Chairman of the Technical Committee
g. Media. Following the report, a meeting was
convened later in the week to set a strategy
for Marketing and media (see Note A)

5. Elections of Members to IFA Committees
a. The members of the Executive Committee
were re-elected. It was discussed to include
a representative of the U23 sailors for a two
years term.
b. The members of the Technical Committee
were re-appointed with a note to check
participation.
c. The members of the Marketing Committee
were elected following the special meeting
organised later in the week. Oliver Tweddell
was elected as Vice Chairman.

6. IFA Championships (report)
a. Update on 2017 venues and dates. 2017
FGC, Balatonfoldvar, Hungary 1 – 10 September.
Finn Silver Cup Balatonfured, Hungary 18 - 27
August, Open Finn European (combined with
RS:X) Marseille, France, 5 – 13 May.
b. Report on future events strategy. Looking
for windy venues.
c. Championship manual update. The AGM
gives the right to the Executive to amend the
document accordingly.
d. European Champion title. Future European
championships will award the title of European
champion to the first European, with medals
presented to the top 3 Europeans and Junior
Europeans. The winner of the event will be
awarded the trophy as overall winner.
e. FGC and Europeans last day (survey result
and recommendation). It is recommended
to pursue the test one more year before
deciding. Further format testing leading to
the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games could incur
further changes.

7. Development
a. Update on activities
b. Future development initiatives: pursue with
clinics and helping sailors through recognised
centres.

8. Technical Committee
a. Technical Committee report approved
b. Technical matters arising from the TC
Chairman report
- Adoption of the simplification of the boat
certification process.
- Agreement to pursue investigations towards
hulls provided at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic
Games.
- Agreement to investigate sail limitations: cloth
thickness (longevity), number of sails per year
and/or event. Consultation and decisions to be
taken before November for a test in 2017.

Any other business.

NOTE A - Marketing Committee Meeting

Members areas of responsibilities:
Chairman: Robert Deaves, (liaison and general
communication)
Vice-Chairman : Oli Tweddel, (social media,
contents, connectivity, new technologies)
Members: Jonas Høgh-Christensen and Ian
Bostock (Commercial and MKG opportunities),
Charles Heimler and Miguel Mateo (sailors
data research), Ken Dool, Pablo Guitian and
Oisin Mcclelland (Format), Brendan McCarty
(technical: boat and sail look, weight…)

Class Rules: Look at amendments to
enhance the sailing of the boat, branding,
data collection equipment such as heart rate
monitors, sails and cloth weight... with Rory
Barnes and Brendan McCarty

Format And Sport Presentation / Content:
more exciting formats suitable for
Finns, different format for light winds, new
technologies, drones, showcase assets of
Finn sailors physiques, life stories and
lifestyle... with Ken Dool, Pablo Guitian and
Oisin Mcclelland

Internal Marketing / Social Media: data
research on sailors and world population,
social media boost and targets, engaging
sailors fan bases, ... with Oli Tweddell &
Robert Deaves/data research with Charles
Heimler and Miguel Mateo

External Partners: commercial opportunities,
product development, branding, increasing
profile of sailors and events... With Jonas
Høgh-Christensen and Ian Bostock

Financial overview
Income
Expenditure
Assets
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Italian Master Championship

Marco Buglielli writes: The 2016 Italian Master Championship took place in Acquafresca di Brenzone, Lake Garda, a couple of weeks before the Finn World Masters in Torbole.

33 Finns were present, including sailors from Ukraine, Austria and Finland in preparation for the Torbole event. Seven races were sailed in light to medium conditions, with the Ora less regular and stronger than usual due to unstable weather.

Since the first race it was immediately clear that the fight for the leadership was between Walter Riosa and Nicola Menoni, the only ones who managed to have consistent results in the variable conditions.

After two days and six races Nicola was first but Walter had a better discard and everything was to be decided on the last day. After heavy rain during the night (and snow on the mountains around Garda) in the morning the Northerly Peler was blowing strong and the Race committee decided to postpone ashore. When the wind decreased at around 20 knots the fleet was sent out and a couple of general recalls due to a very biased starting line caused another delay, with the Peler continuing to decrease. The race was shortened at the second upwind with Marco Buglielli who managed to finish with the last gusts of Peler and only five boats managed to arrive within the time limit.

Boat Walter and Nicola were DNF and Walter won the Championship due to his best discard and Nicola had to settle for second place. Marco Buglielli was third.

Walter was assigned the Sergio Masserotti perpetual Trophy and the Grand Master title, while the Master title went to Gino Bucciarelli, the Grand Grand Master to Bruno Catalan and the Legend to Umberto Giugni.

Next year the Italian Masters will take place on Bracciano Lake in a date to be confirmed between June and July.

Coppa Italia 2016

At the end of June four events of 2016 Coppa Italia, Italian major Finn Trophy, were completed.

After Anzio and Castiglione della Pescaia, at the end of April the classical Dr. Schaer Trophy took place on Caldaro Lake, with 52 Finns coming also from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Finland.

The first day there was rain and no wind but on Sunday three races were sailed in a strong but variable northerly. Roberto Strappati in his first year on a Finn showed how fast he improved with a string of impressive results (1-1-2). Second place went to Marko Kolic and third to the local Peter Stuffer, winner of the third race.

The fourth event of Coppa Italia was held in Viareggio (Tuscany) on June 18-19 with 35 Finns. Four races were sailed in a light to medium westerly with shifts and pressure changes, which made the races tactically very difficult.

Giacomo Giovanelli won the event on even points with the Italian team member Enrico Voltolini, currently sparring Giorgio Poggi in preparation for the Olympics in Rio. Third place went to Marco Buglielli, followed by Roberto Strappati and Nicola Menoni. The Grand Grand Master prize went to Andrea Poli and the Legends to Franco Dazzi.

Coppa Italia is supported by a pool of sponsors which offer their products for the final prizegiving: KevLove Bags, Grappa Bertagnolli, Quantum Sail Design Group, 3FL Saildesign, HitechSailing.com, Gill-Tomasoni Fittings, Bertacca Sail Equipment, Essemarine, Residence Ca’ del Lago, Azienda agricola Valpanera, Hotel Piccolo Malcesine.

Coppa Italia provisional standings

1  ITA 964  Roberto Strappati  414
2  ITA 202  Giacomo Giovanelli  411
3  ITA 40  Marko Kolic  376
4  ITA 191  Alessandro Cattaneo  370
5  ITA 2  Marco Buglielli  360
6  ITA 4  Francesco Faggiani  324
7  ITA 234  Tommaso Ronconi  320
8  ITA 97  Lorenzo Podestà  316
9  ITA 77  Alberto Bellelli  306
10 ITA 872  Nicola Menoni  295

Finn races around the world
**GKSS OCR 2016**

Stefan Fagerlund writes: The 2016 Swedish Finn season started off at the Olympic Class Regatta in Gothenburg in early May. Due to different reasons there were only six Finns in the regatta but nevertheless some good sailing was had by the participants. In the first two races Olympic Finn sailor Max Salminen showed his skills but due to other obligations Max didn’t compete in the rest of the regatta. We all thank Max for joining the national fleet at this regatta despite his fully booked calendar. The overall winner of the regatta this year was Martin Pluto with Erik Åberg in second, both from Karlstad and Gösta Eriksson from Gothenburg in third. The regatta was as always a very nice event at the Royal Gothenburg Yacht Club.

**USS Regatta**

Uppsala, 18-19 June

This year the USS Regatta was sailed in various conditions. On Saturday the first four races were sailed in a 4-9 m/s north-westerly and a pouring rain. The three races sailed on Sunday were a bit more joyful with bright sunshine and a fresh 4-8 m/s westerly wind.

This time 19 Finns competed on the lake of Mälaren, south of Uppsala, and it was very gratifying to see some international competition on the starting line: Tore Glen Berg/NOR 12, Mathias Tallberg/FIN 145, Harri Kokko/FIN 228, Bob Nowakowski/POL 26 and Jan Okulicz/POL 3.

The winner this year was Johannes Pettersson/SWE 11. Second place went to Daniel Miles/SWE 77 with last year’s Swedish champion Fredrik Tegnhed in third.

Beside the overall regatta result the prizes for the Swedish Master Championship were awarded.

The victory went to Daniel Miles/SWE 77

**Swedish Championship 2016**

The next Swedish Finn regatta is the Swedish Championship in Varberg 12-14 August. We all hope for entries from international participants who want to take the opportunity to experience Varberg and sail a Finn regatta with nice winds and waves in the west of Sweden.
Switzerland

Jollenregatta Mammern, April 23-25
Beat Steffen writes: 18 Swiss, German and French Finns were on the line this year despite a very nasty weather forecast – a new record for the traditional season opening race in Mammern. Those who made the effort were rewarded with four races in light to medium winds and the usual cold and shifty conditions at the Untersee.

Swiss baker Thomas Gautschi dominated the first day with a first and a second, yet it was Carlo Lazzari who won the regatta with two bullets on the second day. Joseph Rochet, in his new boat, placed third with a consistent performance. Michael Good, usually racing a Melges 24 and new to the Finn, showed his class with two second places. Beer and a tasty dinner were sponsored by the sailing club Mammern.

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<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>SUI 3</th>
<th>Carlo Lazzari</th>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>GER 84</td>
<td>Michael Hüllenjremer</td>
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Christoph Christen voted ‘Athlete of the Year’
After winning his fifth Swiss Championship last summer in Biel, Christoph Christen was voted ‘Athlete of the Year’ by the local newspaper and received CHF 2,000 prize money. As one of the backbones of the Swiss Finn Fleet, always willing to help with advice and coaching, we congratulate Christoph for this well-deserved recognition.

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